

**Toxic Satellites from 9**

satellite carrying over 1,000 pounds of Hydrazine gas tumbling down through the atmosphere could be negated by the use of any of the current missile defense systems. All of the deployed missile defense systems, with the exception of Patriot, have successfully intercepted fast moving small objects in space."

"Since the United States' decision to deploy missile defense in December of 2002, there have been 16 successful intercepts in space by three different missile defense systems."

"The deployed U.S. Aegis ships, equipped with missile defense capability, offer self contained tracking and discrimination and hold numerous Standard Missile-3s in their berths for multiple shots if required to add redundancy and further reduce the risk. This sea-based system has repeated successes destroying very fast warheads around six feet long and between 1,000 and 2,000 pounds in space. The most recent successes were by the Japanese Aegis Ship Kongo on December 17, 2007 and the United States Aegis cruiser Lake Erie (CG 70) on November 6, 2007."

"In addition to reducing risk to human life globally, the potential kinetic energy intercept of a tumbling, uncontrolled NRO satellite by the Aegis ship's Standard Missile -3 provides a real use military operational case that, in addition to reducing risk to human life, can enhance the current operational development of the SM-3 and its Aegis System. A typical Aegis Missile Defense test costs the Department of Defense around \$40 million."

Ellison closed his Alert with the following remarks: "We endorse the flexible use of this remarkable capability and clearly see the return on investment of missile defense for the American taxpayer and Congress. Our country's investment and leadership internationally in Missile Defense provides global options that make our world a safer place. We are a safer world with missile defense than without it." □

**The Falcon's Polish News Bytes**

Compiled by **Robert Strybel**,  
Our Warsaw Correspondent

**Two little-known Shiite terrorist groups** have claimed credit for recent attacks on Polish targets in Iraq, including one that killed a Polish secret serviceman and seriously wounded Poland's ambassador to Iraq. In another incident, two Iraqi pedestrians were killed when a car bomb exploded outside the Polish embassy in Baghdad. "Leave Iraq before you drown in its swamp as Britain did," a masked terrorist warned in a video shown around the globe. The Polish authorities have said they would not be intimidated into withdrawing their troops from the US-led stabilization operation.

**Poland intends to bolster** the UN/African Union-led peace operation in Africa's strife-ridden Sudanese province of Darfur with a token contingent of 146 troops and four civilians. The unit, formed under the EU Armed Forces, will protect UN and civilian staff aiding Sudanese refugees in Chad. The operation involves 26,000 peace-keepers made up mainly of Africans. A nearly 1,000-strong Polish force is stationed in Iraq, with another 1,200 soldiers in Afghanistan.

**Russia will extend its ban** on Polish meat to include dairy products, a spokesman for that country's animal and health-inspection agency, Sergei Dankvert, indicated recently. Starting in November, only products from dairy plants certified by Russian veterinary inspectors will be allowed into Russia. The Kremlin insists the move is dictated by health concerns, but Poles believe it to be a political rebuff to Polish support for Ukraine's pro-democracy movement and other policies not to Moscow's liking.

**158 Polish tourists** returning to Poland from Egypt miraculously survived an emergency landing in the Turkish capital of Istanbul after their plane's electrical system failed, immobilizing its lighting, air-conditioning and landing gear. Only five passengers suffered minor bruises during the

bumpy landing, and all were led out to safety after a fire broke out on board. Eleven of the survivors refused to board another plane and demanded a special bus to take them back to Poland.

**Poland was accused of "imperialism"** by a leading Lithuanian historian in an article published by the daily "Lietuvos Rytas" during Polish President Lech Kaczyński's recent visit to that country. Prof. Alfredas Bumblauskas charged that Poland had bullied Lithuania over the two countries' 1596 merger the 1791 May 3rd Constitution. Bumblauskas said "traditional Polish haughtiness" had prevented the planned signing of a bilateral atomic-energy treaty.

**More than 60 excommunicated ex-nuns** of the Sisters of Bethany were peacefully evicted by police from the convent in eastern Poland they had been illegally occupying for two years. The nuns had defied the Vatican by rallying round their deposed Mother Superior Jadwiga Ligocka, widely suspected of creating a sect-like community. Police held Ligocka and defrocked Franciscan monk Roman Komaryczko for questioning on the possible use of psychotropic drugs to enforce blind obedience.

**Borderless travel in Europe** is likely before Christmas, as Poland joins the European Union's Schengen zone. Schengen is a small town in Luxembourg where a treaty to end internal border checkpoints was signed in 1985. Officially, Poland will enter the zone on January 1st, but efforts have been made to lift border-crossing check earlier, enabling people to freely visit relatives and friends throughout the EU for Christmas without border controls.

**Martial-law baby-boomers** are getting married in record numbers, at least temporarily reversing a depopulation trend that has plagued Poland after it dumped communism in 1989. This year some 260,000 Poles are expected to say "I do" – 30,000 more than in 2006, which was also a good year for marriages. Conjugal activity soared during the bleak, record-cold martial-law winter of 1981-1982, when public entertainment was banned, TV offered little more than military propaganda and a curfew was in force.

**Poland's pro-World's Fair** campaign has been launched on CNN to promote the southwestern city of Wrocław as the site for Expo 2012. The campaign entails 300 half-minute TV spots, 77 of them at prime time, touting Poland as a land of dynamic economic growth as well as a great tourist destination. Also competing to host the 2012 fair, whose theme is "fruitful leisure time", is the Moroccan city of Tangiers and the South Korean city of Yeosu.

**Polonian activists continue to be harassed** by the regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka in the post-soviet republic of Belarus east of Poland. Polish-Belarusian journalist Igor Banker was jailed for 10 days in jail and Angelica Borys, the head of the Union of Poles in Belarus, was fined 460,000 rubles for swearing at policemen. The Lukashenka regime, which put its own backers in the Polonian organization, claims the group led by Borys is illegal.

**A stray training missile landed** recently landed in the northwestern village of Rzecze, some 30 miles off target. No-one was hurt, but the explosion, heard for miles around, shattered windows in nearby homes. The remaining 22 plane-launched, laser-guided missiles struck their intended target on the military firing range in Drawsko Pomorskie. At a loss to explain the freak occurrence, Polish military officials are investigating to see whether a technical defect or human error were responsible.

**The posthumous decoration** of Wilhelm Hosenfeld with Commodore's Cross of Polonia Restituta has triggered protests by Jewish and Polish veterans' groups. Hosenfeld, a German counter-intelligence officer and Nazi party member, brought food to composer Władysław Szpilman hiding in the ruins of bombed-out Warsaw—an episode memorialized in Roman Polański's film "The Pianist". But Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Institute has refused to grant him the Righteous Gentile award, arguing there is inadequate proof of his heroism.

**Magda Pniewska**, a Polish nurse's aide

working in one of England's nursing homes, was gunned down when she got caught in the crossfire of rival drug gangs fighting it out on the streets of Liverpool. The final moments of life were heard by her sister in Poland who was chatting over a mobile phone when Magda, 26, was struck in the head by a stray bullet. Pniewska had been working in Britain for the past four years.

**Polish environmental physicist** Professor Lidia Morawska has just completed a startling study into the potential effects of laser printers on respiratory health. A team of researchers at Australia's Queensland University of Technology, led by Professor Morawska, tested the particle emissions from the toner cartridges of 62 laser printer models, of which 17 were found to be potentially dangerous high particle emitters. The effects could range for respiratory irritation to cardiovascular problems or cancer. Further research is needed to confirm the results.

**Polish healthcare is 27th in Europe**, outdistancing only Bulgaria and Latvia. According to t

he Euro Health Consumer Index, things have further deteriorated since 2006, when Poland was in 21st place, ahead of the Czech Republic, Ireland, Lithuania and Slovakia. Antiquated infrastructure, excessive bureaucracy, healthcare strikes and an exodus of medical specialists to the West have all exacerbated the problem. Europe's health-care frontrunners are: Austria, Holland, France, Switzerland and Germany.

**A German property claim**, filed by Agnes Trawny, was been rejected by the Olsztyn District Court on grounds that it fell under the statute of limitations. Trawny had demanded nearly \$1 million for the 150-acre farm she left behind when emigrating to Germany in 1977. After her departure, the land became state property. In 2005, Trawny succeeded in reclaiming title to the farmhouse itself. German property claims have long strained Poland's relations with its western neighbor, although Germany does not officially support its citizens in such matters.

**Poles have again been excluded** from competing in the US Visa Lottery which is held to correct America's nationality imbalance, caused by an excessive Hispanic and Asian influx. The reason was that too many Poles were allowed to get permanent residence in the US in recent years. According to the authorities organizing the lottery, to be eligible to participate, a given country cannot be awarded more than 50,000 Green Cards over the past five-year period.

**58% of Poles have no savings** whatsoever, according to a study carried out by the PBS DGA Research Institute and cited by the Polish legal journal Gazeta Prawna. But that is a slight improvement over 2006, when 64% had no savings. The majority of those who do have savings tend to deposit their money in current bank accounts, and only four percent say they prefer investment funds.

**Poland's most experienced volunteer** helping ex-convicts is undoubtedly Janusz Dobrowolski. Unlike well-meaning humanitarians and textbook-trained social workers, he has had plenty of hands-on experience in the US where he was convicted of multiple car thefts, drug offenses and other misconduct for which he spent a total of 15 years behind bars. "I had plenty of time to think things over. When I returned to Poland I found that my family life had collapsed, so I decided to help others in the same boat," Dobrowolski told reporters. □

**Elizabeth Guziel**

Mortgage Consultant  
**1<sup>st</sup> Banker Mortgage Corp.**

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Mówimy po Polsku

**Consulate General**

Republic of Poland in Los Angeles  
website: [www.PolishConsulateLA.com](http://www.PolishConsulateLA.com)  
(310) 442-8500

Consul General

**Paulina Kapuścińska** ext. 109  
e-mail: [mailing\\_list@consulplla.org](mailto:mailing_list@consulplla.org)

Culture, Science Education,  
Public Affairs

**Consul Jakub Zaborowski** ext. 108  
e-mail: [culture@consulplla.org](mailto:culture@consulplla.org)

Administration and Finances  
**Consul Małgorzata Kopeć** ext. 104, 105  
e-mail: [admin@consulplla.org](mailto:admin@consulplla.org)

Passports/Visas/Citizenship Section  
**Consul Marzena Gronostajska**  
ext. 103, 106  
e-mail: [visapascit@consulplla.org](mailto:visapascit@consulplla.org)

Legal Affairs/Consular Protection  
**Consul Dariusz Dobrowolski** ext. 102,  
e-mail: [legal@consulplla.org](mailto:legal@consulplla.org)

Economic and Trade Division  
**Vice-Consul Michał Urbankowski**  
ext. 114

e-mail: [wehla@consulplla.org](mailto:wehla@consulplla.org)  
fax: (310) 442-8526

website: [www.pan.net/tradeconsul](http://www.pan.net/tradeconsul)

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## Washington DC, February 6, 2008 - At an extraordinary General Membership meeting on February 5, 2008, the Washington Metropolitan Area Division of the Polish American Congress passed the following resolution:

**Concern About Recent Events in Poland**

The Polish American Congress, Washington Metropolitan Division, notes the significant support of American Polonia for the liberation of Poland from Soviet domination and expresses concern over recent developments that seem to indicate an erosion of freedom in Poland. Several recent events appear to be evidence that some political forces may wish to glorify the communist period, hamper transparency and the rule of law, limit religious freedom, and muzzle the media. Such actions harm Poland's standing in West and require an immediate response by the government of Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and by the Polish Head of State, President Lech Kaczyński.

**Among the worrisome events reported are:**

Appointment of former communist Marek Borowski to chair the Sejm committee for liaison with Polish communities abroad;

Orders by the Minister of Foreign Affairs restricting Polish diplomats' contact with Polonia and Polonian organizations (in one such case, Polish diplomats withdrew their participation in the 150th anniversary celebration of a blacklisted organization);

Return of portraits of communist Ministers of Education (including Henryk Jablonski, who repressed student protests in 1968) to a place of honor in the Ministry of Education;

Non-disbursement by the Minister of Higher Education of EU funds previously awarded to over 30 institutions of higher learning (including the Catholic University of Lublin and the Higher School of Public and Media Culture in Toruń, even though this action strikes a severe blow that can undermine these schools financially (this decision directly targets independent Catholic colleges and universities);

**Implementation of strict limits on journalists' access to the Polish Parliament;**

Calls by a well-known Member of the Sejm, who belongs to the governing Civic Platform, for this party to "finish off" a

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